FOVRE LETTERS:

One from the Duke of Bouillon *to the French King. Dated in Feb. 1619.*

Another from the French King to the Duke of *Espernon. Dated the 11. of Jan. 1619.*

Two other from the Duke of Espernon to the *French King, the one dated the 17. of Jan. the other* the 7. of Feb. 1619.

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A letter from the Duke of Boullon to the French King.

Sir,

I Have receiued with the honour and respect I ought to beare to whatsoeuer cometh from your Maiestie, the packet wherein it hath beene pleased to charge the Lord *de la Chaine* towards me, with the letter which he hath deliuered me, dated the 26. of Febr. In that which mention is made of another sent two dayes before, which did declare vnto me the vnexpected depart of the Queene your Maiesties mother from *Blois*, which I haue not receiued; neither haue I learned these troublesome newes before the deliuring of the said Lord *de la Chaine*, who being endued with many good qualities, is among others an old faithfull affectionate seruant of your Maiestie. By the election it hath pleased your Maiestie to make of him, your Maiestie doth testifie and assure me of its good will and affection, which is a treasure I desire to possesse aboue any other riches. Your Maiestie doth command me to giue him my aduice vpon the dotations which are offered. I cannot in obeying it be blamed as presumptuous, but rather as ignorant, for the small insight I haue in affaires. My loue and the fidelitie I owe to your seruice directing my pen, shall with your Maie-

[illegible] good pleasure, for any what may be defectuous. In the Queene mother's depart, all true Frenchmen receive a iust iust griefe, to see an alteration in the naturall loue and mutuall benevolence, which (as it should seeme) ought to be perpetuall betweene your Maiesties. But as it doth cause a sudden sorrow, so doth it instantly mitigate it with an assured hope, that by Gods helpe and natures assistance, your Maiesties cannot remaine disunited in loue; your Sir being a good King, and a good sonne, she not onely a louing mother, but also a most humble subiect. Your Maiestie may haue beene informed by the letter which she hath written vnto you from *Orleans*, that two passions (as she doth tell you) haue moued her to go out of *Blois* not without danger; The first, the noise which she hath of many euill deedes that concerne your Maiestie, the other, of her life, leaning and submitting to your choise and good liking the meanes she ought to take to let you vnderstand them. By this meanes your Maiestie shall without confusion rest free of her actions, to the end that taking the profitable aduices for your affections, they may reiect those that are lesse conuenient. France aboue all other Realmes hath beene obnoxious vnto like sudden accidents, or rather greater; but also hath she then any where else, beene they helped and cured without force of armes, which are alwayes hurtfull, especially in this State, which I may say hath more lesse not do of them then at any other time. So (Sir) by a royall, iust, and mild power, your Maiestie may reape some profite from this, in iudging what is wanting to a sure tranquillitie, in the which your authoritie may be re-

spected, the lawes of the kingdome maintained, your Edicts of pacifications kept and obserued, the infractions repaired, the difference of your [illegible] taken away, and preferments and dignities [illegible] vnto such as your Maiestie (both for their [illegible] merit) shall esteeme worthy to be bestowed vpon. So (Sir) shall you enioy an immortall glory within your kingdome, and an assured felicity. And I hold that your Maiestie cannot be counselled to make vse of armes but by those that aime at a dissipation, and to equall their durie in the equalitie which they hope to obtaine in weapons: which intention is most detestable, and shall haue heauen for iudge, and on earth due punishment; and likewise those that proffer their seruice that they may haue the meanes to be disloyall, of whom there is great number. Sir, giue eare to your mother by faithfull and sufficient persons. Hearken to the common desires of your State, and appoint what shall be most conuenient for it. Thus doing, if there be any who vnder a faire shew maske any false inuentions, they will be manifested, and will serue to demonstrate your power, and your iustice in their punishment: in the execution whereof you shall be aided by your good subiects, according as their duty binds them. As for my selfe, (to whom there remaineth but a little life, and lesse health) I consecrate whatsoeuer belongeth to me and mine, without any excuse, to the seruice and establishing of your authoritie.

From Sedan. Feb. 1619.

A Letter from the French King to the Duke of Espernon.

COusin, I will deferre my answer to the Letters which the Lord of *Fauieres* hath deliuered vnto me from you, as also to those I haue receiued before, vntill I haue heard him more particularly, and be informed how he hath executed the commission which I had giuen him. But forasmuch as in them you make no answer to the command I sent you, not to stirre from *Mets*, and that by the discourse you held to the said *Fauieres* vpon this subiect, it seemeth that your mind is rather not to stay there, then to conforme it selfe to my will; I therefore expresly send this messanger vnto you with these presents, to aduise you, that hauing very lately receiued newes from Germanie, which not onely confirme the precedents, but witnesse the broyles to increase, and that it is to be feared that warres fire alreadie kindled is not so quickly nor so easily quenched, but disperseth it selfe throughout the greatest part of the countrie, I iudge your presence necessary in the Citie of *Mets*, and charge you againe, and that expresly, not to leaue it vntill you receiue further directions from me; which you shall haue (as I haue promised you) so soone as the affaires will permit you to remoue from the Frontires of my kingdome; assuring my selfe that in the meane while you will performe

other communion at this present, but only that you
suffer not the Archbishops Commissaries, or any other
whatsoeuer, to carry away any saltpeeter; and looke
that my commandements in that and all other things
be duly obserued. I beseech the Almighty

Cousin, to haue you in his keeping. From Lord
this 11. Iun. 1619.

Signed Lewis
And Lower Rotier.

The firſt letter of the Duke of Eſpernon to the King.

Sir,

I Haue learned by the letters wherewith it hath pleaſed your Maieſtie to honour me, written the 20 of the laſt moneth, and the 11 of this preſent, that vpon the newes you haue receiued of the continuing of the warres in Germanie, you iudge it fit for the profit of your ſeruice that I ſhould not yet ſtirre from the Frontires of this kingdome. As to that (Sir) I haue nothing to anſwer to your Maieſtie, but that hauing alwayes abſolutely depended on your commandements, and propounded to my ſelfe in all my actions (for onely aime) the good of your State, in the ſmalleſt intereſt that ſhall regard it within the limits of my charge, which is not onely capable to ſtay me here, but doth oblige me at all times and in all places whatſoeuer, to eſteeme my life nothing, ſo I may be ſo happie as to ſpend it for the ſeruice of your Maieſtie. But at this day (Sir) the peace and tranquillitie of *France* is growne ſo generall, your State ſo powerfully eſtabliſhed, and your friendſhip ſo deare to all your neighbours; that as there is nothing within this Realme but ſtoopes to your authoritie, ſo out of it there is no Prince but doth reſpect your power, and maintaine himſelfe by your iuſtice.

iuſtice. As for the warres in *Bohemia*, to the which hitherto it hath not bene poſſible to giue remedie (beſides that meanes are now intended for the ending of them in the friendlieſt manner that may be, and that there is no condition how vnprofitable ſoeuer, but the Emperour will accept rather then to hazard the little authoritie that yet remaineth vnto him) the danger (fained by ſuch as make things far greater then they are,) is ſo remote from this Frontire, that the feare which we might haue thereof ſhould be without ground, ſeeing moreouer that not any as yet are come ouer on this ſide the *Rhene*, and that the ancient friends & allies to this Crowne (who are the neareſt to theſe broyles) expect the iſſue without any ſtirring, vp or taking either the one or the others part. Theſe conſiderations (Sir) require not my ſtaying in this country, where all things are in ſo good a being, as almoſt of themſelues they may ſubſiſt and be maintained: and the abode that my ſonne *de la Valette* ſhall make here in my abſence (being ſufficient to giue order to whatſoeuer ſhall concerne the good of your affaires:) I truſt your Maieſtie will with equitie regard the neceſſitie of mine owne particulars, and be pleaſed to let me returne to my houſe, from the which I haue bene abſent aboue theſe 15 moneths. I craue but the libertie which you denie not to the leaſt of thoſe whoſe greateſt honour is to be vnder your gouernment. I make no doubt (Sir) but that you will be pleaſed with the deſire I haue to performe this iourney; and aſſure my ſelfe that you will take the paines to conſider, that ſince your coming to the Crowne, hauing indebted my ſelfe aboue an

[illegible] for your ſeruice, for the which I pay
[illegible] & finding not ſince theſe two yeares
receiued of your liberality any other gratification but
the bare wages of a Colonel, after the rate of 10 mo-
neths for 2 yeare, it is not poſſible I ſhould hold out in
the great & neceſſary expences which I am bound to
make here, as well for the maintaining of the dignity
of my office, as for the performing of your Maieſties
ſeruice with more eminence. Furthermore (Sir) ſince
my enemies do daily endeuour to infuſe into your
Maieſties heart a miſtruſt of my pureſt intentions,
and that I am ſo vnhappie, that euen waxen old in the
ſeruice of three great Kings, I ſhould yet haue much
adoe to defend a ſo conſtant and approued fidelity
from calumnies; I muſt (and with griefe I muſt)
ſpeake it, that I haue remained in my dutie when as
rewards were promiſed to vnfaithfulneſſe; that I haue
maintained your authority when it was abuſed of
ſome, and diſpiſed of others. It is to wrong me much
to thinke that at theſe yeares I would begin to proue
diſloyall, and that my priuate paſſions ſhould be
dearer to me then my fidelity to your ſeruice. In this
caſe (Sir) I will freely auow, that I haue no cauſe to
complaine but of my bad fortune; being moſt cer-
tain that it is not where your Scepter doth beare ſway
that vertue is ſuſpected, and a good reputation odi-
ous; and that your Maieſty is too iuſt to put no diffe-
rence betweene the oppreſſed innocent and the guil-
tie. For indeed (Sir) if then, when you were not as yet
free, the gentleneſſe of your nature hath bene ſuch,
that you haue alwayes withſtood violent counſels,
and not ſuffered your authoritie to be employed to

the

the outthrow of your fortunes, there is no likelyhood (now that you onely depend of your selfe, and that your mild inclination is not softened by any wish violent passions) that in his hoarie age you would oppresse one of your best seruants, and ancient officers to your Crowne; or denie to his yeares the rest which nature doth require of you. I thinke, Sir, I may presume to deserue that for a recompence of my long and faithfull seruice, and your Maiestie may grant it me (as humbly I do beseech it) without any disparagement to your State: for as I neuer expected other profit from my actions but the pleasure I receiue to haue done them, so will I thinke my selfe sufficiently happie by the testimonie which my conscience all my life time will yeeld me, that I haue truly bene, and intend to remaine vnto my end,

Sir,

Your most humble, most dutifull, faithfull, and louing subiect and seruant, *Essernon.*

From Mets this 17 of Iun. 1619.

Another Letter of the Duke of Eſpernon to the King.

Sir,

HAuing heretofore repreſented vnto your Maieſtie with what patience I haue expected in my gouernment of *Metz* the occaſions to do you ſeruice, and hoping that hauing put to your cõſideration the neceſſity of my buſineſſe, you would haue bene fully ſatisfied with my reſolution ſo long ago concluded: I haue thought that I could not be blamed of your Maieſtie, nor of any other, if at theſe yeares, hauing giuen the beſt part of my life to the publike good, I did deſire at leaſt to go ſpend the remnant of it with ſome eaſe, and be partaker of the peaceable reſt you haue ſtored vp for your kingdome. Neuertheleſſe, Sir, the leaſt of your commandements is ſo deare vnto me, and I am ſo religious in all the circumſtances of my duty, that I had not vndertooke my iourney, if the occaſions of the ſtaying thereof had not bene taken away, and the difficulties of the warres in *Bohemia* altogether finiſhed. But hauing learned by certaine aduiſe which the Lord Duke of *Lorraine* hath receiued from that countrie, that the Differents are vpon tearmes of agreement, to the furtherance whereof ſhall be proceeded by the depoſition of armes on both ſides: I thought that the profit

profit of your ſeruice did not require my abode any longer in a place which in time of peace is not in any danger, and will increaſe by the decay of the Empire if the warres continue. That if there be any part of this countrie leſſe participant then other of the publique tranquillitie, and needing more carefully to be conſerued, I am ſure that your Maieſtie will iudge that it is that Prouince into the which I am going; which ſince it dependeth of my charge, it is my duty to be carefull in whatſoeuer doth concerne the good of it, and not to giue way through it to the preiudice of your authoritie. So, Sir, that if at this time I will not omit the occaſions, your Maieſtie ſhall be pleaſed to do me the honour to conſider, that I do not therein diſobey your commandements, but that contrariwiſe I expound them according to the right ſence, and that I giue them the beſt interpretation, ſince it is that which is the moſt profitable for your ſeruice. For indeed, Sir, euery one doth know, that as the chiefeſt law of your Realme is the maintaining of your authoritie, ſo your moſt expreſſe and moſt important commandement is the good ſucceſſe of your affaires; which being abſolutely true, what likelihood ſhould there be, that (being in me to conſerue vnto your Maieſtie the affections of a Prouince diſunited; and to retaine by my preſence thoſe ſpirits that might affect a changement; if there were no body to confirme them in their dutie) I ſhould propound to my ſelfe (for the hindering of ſo neceſſary a voyage,) ſuch weake conſiderations as the warres of *Bohemia*. I am not of that age (Sir) that will permit me to ſeeke after vaine glorie; yet neuertheleſſe I do not thinke

that your Maieſtie eſteemeth of me ſo little, as to imploy me in no other ſeruice then for the ſurer directing of your pacquets from *Germanie*: I do not hold my ſelfe yet ſo vnprofitable that I ſhould onely be thought fit to performe to you and to your State ſeruice of ſo little conſequence. Sir, this is that which I humbly requeſt your Maieſtie to iudge of my faults, and in the meane time to do me that honour to beleeue, that whereſoeuer I be, and what bad vſage ſoeuer I haue had theſe 20 moneths, no condition in the world, and neuer ſo profitable ſhall corrupt me, nor any neceſſity how great ſoeuer hinder me to remaine with the ſame affection, with which I haue alwayes bene,

Sir,

Your moſt humble and moſt obedient ſubiect, moſt faithfull and louing ſeruant, *I. Lewes de la Valette.*

From the Bridge of Vichy this 7. of Feb. 1619.